

Appl. No. 09/882,634
Amdt. dated 4/27/2006
Reply to the Office Action of 02/28/2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination and reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested. By this amendment, claims 2, 4, 7 and 9 have been amended; claims 1, 3, 8 and 10-32 have been canceled without prejudice; and new claims 33-38 have been added. After this amendment, claims 2, 4-7, 9 and 33-38 remain pending in this application.

Claims Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected all the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) or under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The rejection is largely moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1, 3, 8 and 10-32, and in view of the change in dependency of claims 2, 4 and 7. Claims 2, 4 and 7 have been amended to be dependent upon claim 9, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable (see next paragraph). Claims 2 and 4-7 depend from claim 9, and because dependent claims recite all of the limitations of the independent claim, it is believed that claims 2 and 4-7 also recite in allowable form. Therefore, applicants believe that the rejection of claims 2 and 4-7 has been overcome.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claim 9, objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, by this amendment, claim 9 was rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim (claim 1) and the intervening claim (claim 8).

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New Claims

By this amendment, new claims 33-38 have been added. The new claims find support in the specification and in the original claims. In particular, new independent claim 33 finds support in claims 3, 8 and 9, as originally filed. In particular, new dependent claims 34-38 find support in claims 2 and 4-7, as originally filed.

Conclusion

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed February 28, 2006, and it is suggested that claims 2, 4-7, 9 and 33-38 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejection is requested. Allowance of claims 2, 4-7, 9 and 33-38 is earnestly solicited.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless applicants have argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

The applicants acknowledge the continuing duty of candor and good faith to disclose information known to be material to the examination of this application. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.56, all such information is dutifully made of record. The foreseeable equivalents of any territory surrendered by amendment are limited to the territory taught by the information of record. No other territory afforded by the doctrine of equivalents is knowingly surrendered and everything else is unforeseeable at the time of this amendment by the applicants and their attorneys.

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The present application, after entry of this amendment, comprises twelve (12) claims, including two (2) independent claims. The applicants have previously paid for thirty-two (32) claims including seven (7) independent claims. The applicants, therefore, believe that an additional fee for claims amendment is currently not due.

If the Examiner believes that there are any informalities that can be corrected by Examiner's amendment, or that in any way it would help expedite the prosecution of the patent application, a telephone call to the undersigned at (561) 989-9811 is respectfully solicited.

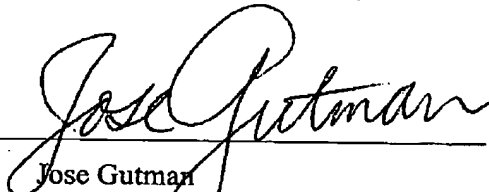
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-1556.

In view of the preceding discussion, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and re-examination is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 27, 2006

By:


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